



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 10 December 2010

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

For information, click here:
<http://www.dhs.gov>

Top Stories

- The Arizona Republic reports that a new study found Arizona experienced the nation's worst outbreak of West Nile virus in 2010, accounting for nearly one in five severe cases in the nation. (See item [32](#))
- Flooding forced the closure of the Panama Canal December 8 for the first time in 21 years, and heavy rains were being blamed for at least eight deaths, according to the Associated Press. (See item [54](#))

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) - <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *December 9, Associated Press* – (National) **Gas pipeline breaks in Madison County; cleanup operations continue.** A gas pipeline has broken in a field between Livingston, Alhambra, and New Douglas, Illinois. The pipeline break was reported to the Illinois Emergency Management Agency December 2, and cleanup operations continued as of December 8. “The original estimates were 100 gallons,” said a spokeswoman with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, which she characterized as “a significant

leak, depending on where it is.” There are about 20 private wells nearby, but the spokeswoman said most private wells on their list are no longer used. Agency workers went door-to-door to ask people if they use their well and want it tested, and so far no contamination has been found. A half-acre private pond has been affected.

Source: <http://www.bnd.com/2010/12/09/1506982/gas-pipeline-breaks-in-field-near.html>

2. *December 8, Associated Press* – (West Virginia) **W.Va. man accused of faking mine certificate.** A West Virginia man is facing federal charges of faking his certification to work as an underground coal mine foreman. Court records show a Lincoln County resident is charged with five counts of making false statements. The charges center on inspection reports the suspect is accused of signing while working without certification. An indictment issued December 7 said the man used another foreman’s certificate number while working at Big River Mining’s Broad Run Mine in February 2009. The indictment said he acted as a foreman for nearly a month until ordered to produce documentation.
Source: <http://wvgazette.com/ap/ApTopStories/201012080934>
3. *December 8, Associated Press* – (Oklahoma) **No injuries reported after explosion, fire erupt at Oklahoma gas processing plant.** Authorities said an explosion sparked a fire at a gas processing plant in south-central Oklahoma. The Grady County emergency management director said the blast happened about 11 a.m. December 8 at the Enogex facility near Alex, Oklahoma. The director said there have been no reports of injuries and all plant employees have been accounted for and removed to an office away from the area of the fire. He said a cause of the explosion has not been determined.
Source: <http://www.kfor.com/news/sns-ap-ok--plantexplosion-okla,0,2699878.story>
4. *December 8, KRIV 26 Houston* – (Texas) **Gas explosion in Wharton County.** A gas explosion has evacuated two homes near East Bernard in Wharton County, Texas. The Wharton County Sheriff’s Office received multiple calls of a gas explosion around 4:30 p.m. December 8, an official said. The fire was put out, but gas is still leaking in the area. It is unknown which gas company the leak originated from.
Source: <http://www.myfoxbhouston.com/dpp/news/local/101208-gas-explosion-in-wharton-county>
5. *December 8, XETV 6 San Diego* – (California) **Work crew unearths military explosives in Tierrasanta.** The discovery of an old military shell on the grounds of a San Diego Gas & Electric substation in Tierrasanta, California on December prompted a 3-hour road closure while a bomb squad safely detonated the device. A contractor crew unearthed the ordnance shortly before 8:30 a.m. while digging a trench. City emergency crews shut down the roadway in the area and called in a military explosives team, which destroyed the shell by detonating it shortly after 11:30 a.m.
Source: <http://www.sandiego6.com/news/local/story/Work-Crew-Unearths-Military-Explosives-in/FMT831nAJkezgNrB3b5hsA.csp>

Chemical Industry Sector

6. *December 8, Discover Magazine* – (International) **Dirty money? Controversial chemical BPA found on dollar bills.** A report by the Washington Toxics Coalition found the potentially harmful plastic chemical Bisphenol A is present in low levels on most money and about half of thermal paper receipts tested in a small study. As many researchers are concerned about the possible health effects of the hormone-disrupting chemical, this new evidence of BPA's ubiquity is setting off new alarms. But are the levels found on money and receipts significant? While most customers worry about ingesting BPA due to its presence in plastic bottles, canned foods linings, and other plastic containers, it can also be absorbed through the skin, the coalition said. Thermal paper (frequently used in receipts) is often made with a coating of BPA powder, which could be an unexplored exposure route to the chemical, especially for cashiers. The coalition tested 22 thermal paper receipts and 22 dollar bills collected from around the country. Eleven of the receipts were positive for BPA (comprising up to 2.2 percent of the total receipt weight) and 21 of the dollar bills were, though at much lower levels. The researchers said BPA may be transferred from receipts to money when people handle them together or stuff them together into a wallet. The researchers conducted tests to see if BPA could be transferred to hands while holding and crumpling receipts. They found that a small amount, between 0.97 and 2.5 micrograms, was transferred by holding and a higher level, 27 to 31 micrograms, was transferred by crumpling (but only four receipts were tested).

Source: <http://blogs.discovermagazine.com/80beats/2010/12/08/dirty-money-controversial-chemical-bpa-found-on-dollar-bills/>

7. *December 7, Milwaukee Daily Reporter* – (Wisconsin) **Brookfield man charged with hazardous waste storage.** A man has been charged with four counts of storing hazardous waste without a license and with falsifying records, according to the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ). According to the complaint, the state department of natural resources investigated after receiving a complaint that hazardous materials were being stored at EOG Environmental Inc. in Milwaukee. According to the criminal complaint, the EOG plant manager told the accused man that the storage of the waste — which, according to the DOJ, was a mixture of acids and some heavy metals — was a violation of the law and that it was putting employees and the community at risk. According to the complaint, EOG was having trouble paying its bills and an Illinois disposal service had refused to accept waste because delinquent bills had not been paid. The material storage violations were discovered during separate inspections between June and August 2008.

Source: <http://dailyreporter.com/blog/2010/12/07/brookfield-man-charged-with-hazardous-waste-storage/>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

8. *December 8, Associated Press* – (New Jersey) **NJ nuke plant, US’ oldest, to close 10 years early.** Electricity company Exelon said December 8 it will close the nation’s oldest nuclear power plant in 2019 — 10 years earlier than planned — but will not have to build costly cooling towers for it. The Chicago-based company said changing markets and upkeep costs for the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station in Lacey Township, New Jersey, have caused its value to decline. The plant, which went online in 1969, will not be required to build one or more cooling towers to replace its current technology, which draws 1.4 billion gallons of water per day from Barnegat Bay, killing billions of aquatic creatures each year. The plant “faces a unique set of economic conditions and changing environmental regulations that make ending operations in 2019 the best option for the company, employees and shareholders,” Exelon Corp.’s president said. Over the past year, the plant has been cleaning up the remnants of a leak of radioactive tritium from underground pipes that has since made its way to a major underground water source, although no wells or drinking water supplies have been tainted. The leaks have prompted the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to order its staff to look for better ways to detect and prevent leaks in buried pipes at all U.S. nuclear power plants.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jLZeJet2lInRamBypmpCLBuexhgA?>

9. *December 8, Miami Herald* – (South Carolina) **Feds say S.C. utility company was lax in fixing nuclear safety equipment.** A utility company provided false information and failed for months to fix important nuclear safety equipment at its Darlington County, South Carolina, power plant last year, federal regulators said. Progress Energy Carolinas faces increased federal oversight as a result of problems cited by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in a notice of violation issued December 7. Company officials said Progress did not try to mislead federal regulators and company workers attempted to fix problems discovered in a generator during the fall of 2008. The problems have been resolved, a spokesman for Progress said. But missteps cited by the NRC put Progress on a short list for federal action if the company suffers more troubles. For now, the NRC will not fine Progress, but the agency may increase inspections of the 40-year-old plant near Hartsville. The NRC’s findings, announced December 8, come during a year in which the plant has suffered two fires and an electrical fault in a coolant pump motor.

Source: <http://www.miamiherald.com/2010/12/08/1964390/feds-say-sc-utility-company-was.html>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

Nothing to report

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

10. *December 8, WBIR 10 Knoxville* – (Tennessee) **EOD Technology offices raided by feds.** A team of special agents raided a pair of office buildings operated by EOD Technology December 8 in Lenoir City and Roane County, Tennessee. EOD Technology is a private security contractor that does millions of dollars in business with the U.S. Department of Defense in Iraq and Afghanistan. None of the agencies involved, including the United States Attorney's office will comment as to what exactly they are investigating. The two searches are just the latest for what has been a bad couple of months of publicity for the East Tennessee based contractor. A few months back, the United States Senate Armed Services Committee found that EOD Technology and other private security contractors relied on Afghani strongmen to fulfill taxpayer paid contracts.

Source: <http://www.wbir.com/news/article/146867/2/EOD-Technology-offices-raided-by-feds>

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Banking and Finance Sector

11. *December 9, IDG News Service* – (International) **Group used 30,000-node botnet in MasterCard, PayPal attacks.** PayPal's Web site was hit December 8 by two botnets as online activists continued their Web attacks on companies that have severed their relationships with WikiLeaks. The activists have recruited volunteers, who have banded their computers into a distributed denial of service (DDoS) botnet, but they are also using hacked machines to carry out these attacks, said a threat researcher at Panda Security. This botnet infects computers via peer to peer filesharing systems, but it can spread via Microsoft Messenger and USB sticks as well, he said. The Paypal.com address was unresponsive into December 9. "There have been attempted DDoS attacks on paypal.com this week," said a company spokesman. "The attacks slowed the Web site itself down for a short while, but did not significantly impact payments." PayPal's blog had been hit earlier in the week, but the main Paypal.com Web site was down for at least several hours December 8, and www.paypal.com was affected too, although less seriously. Unlike Visa and MasterCard, the Web site is critical to PayPal's business. Customers need the Web site to send money to other PayPal users.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9200598/Group_used_30_000_node_botnet_in_MasterCard_PayPal_attacks?taxonomyId=167&pageNumber=1

12. *December 9, Softpedia* – (International) **New PayPal phishing campaign in circulation.** A new wave of PayPal phishing e-mails carrying a fake form allegedly intended for account information update purposes has been hitting people's inboxes since December 8. The rogue e-mails purport to come from "PayPal.com" and bear a subject of "Your account has been temporarily limited !" The body contains the PayPal logo and a message instructing users to fill in and submit the attached form. The attached archive is called PayPal.com_Account_Confirmation_Form.pdf.zip and

contains a file called PayPal.com_Account_Confirmation_Form.pdf.html. The double extension is meant to trick users on operating systems automatically hiding the known file extensions, like Windows Vista and 7, into thinking the file is a PDF document. When opened, the HTML displays a page that mimics the look and feel of the PayPal Web site and displays a form asking for personal and credit card information. The IP address suggests the server where phished information is stored is located in Iran.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/New-PayPal-Phishing-Campaign-in-Circulation-171491.shtml>

13. *December 9, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Four arrested for theft of \$100,000 by fraudulent credit card ring.** A credit card fraud investigation in the Tyler, Texas, area involving hundreds of accounts has led to the indictment of four suspects over losses topping \$100,000. Tyler police said investigators believe the fraud targeted individuals and businesses. Law officers December 8 announced a federal grand jury indicted each suspect on eight counts, including access device fraud and conspiracy. Investigators said one suspect worked at a restaurant and fraudulently obtained hundreds of credit card numbers through an access device. An August 18 search of a Malakoff residence led to the seizure of computers, counterfeit credit card making equipment, and hundreds of bogus cards. Police announced the arrest of three suspects. A fourth was sought.

Source: http://www.ktxs.com/texas_news/26075690/detail.html

14. *December 8, Computerworld* – (International) **MasterCard SecureCode service impacted in attacks over WikiLeaks.** The attacks against MasterCard by WikiLeaks supporters that knocked the credit card company's Web site offline December 8 may have caused more problems than previously thought. MasterCard has so far said publicly only that its corporate Web site experienced availability issues as a result of a sustained distributed denial of service (DDoS) attack against the site. In a statement December 8, the company said it was making progress addressing the issue and that no customer transactions were affected. It now appears the company's Securecode service for secure online transactions was also affected. It is not clear, however, whether the SecureCode problems were caused by Anonymous, the group that knocked MasterCard's corporate site offline after the attacks began about 4 a.m. In multiple bulletins to transaction processing companies, the company said MasterCard and Maestro transactions could not be processed via SecureCode because of a service disruption to the MasterCard Directory Server. The server has been since failed over to a secondary site, but customers could still experience intermittent connectivity issues, MasterCard said. It did not offer a timetable for when it hopes to restore full service.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9200541/MasterCard_SecureCode_service_impacted_in_attacks_over_WikiLeaks

15. *December 8, Visalia Times-Delta* – (California) **Tulare bank robbery suspect held.** A man who walked into a Dinuba, California Rabobank branch December 7 was detained by police as a suspect in the robbery of another Rabobank earlier that day in Tulare. The robbery, at 9:49 a.m., involved a man with a gun who walked into the bank at 2005

E. Prosperity Ave. in the Market Place shopping center. Police reported the robber was well-dressed with a goatee, 6 feet tall, weighing about 200 pounds. He approached a teller and demanded money. After getting the money, the robber — wearing a casual dress jacket, a turtleneck shirt, dress pants, and a driving cap — walked out. In the parking lot, he got into a blue Mazda 3 sedan and drove away, said a Tulare police sergeant. At about 4 p.m., Dinuba police received a report a man matching the description of the robber walked into the Rabobank at 130 E. Tulare St. Although the man did not attempt to rob that branch, “The tellers saw him and he matched the pictures” circulated by the bank of the Tulare robber, a Dinuba police sergeant said.

Source:

<http://www.visaliatimesdelta.com/article/20101208/NEWS01/12080301/Tulare+bank+robbery+suspect+held>

16. *December 7, Softpedia* – (National) **Chase merchant customers targeted in new phishing campaign.** Security researchers warn of a new e-mail phishing campaign targeting customers of JPMorgan Chase’s payment processing and merchant services, Chase Paymentech. According to researchers from messaging security company AppRiver, the e-mails began hitting people’s in-boxes at an aggressive rate December 7. The message claims account information must be updated and provides users with a link to a phishing page. The page is hosted on domains of the form online13-chasepaymentech.com, whose names are close to the real chasepaymentech.com. A message on the fake page reads: “Welcome back! You may notice some changes to your login page, but your login process is still the same. We have made updates on our end in order to ease usability and maximize functionality.” If users input their usernames and passwords, they are taken to a form that asks for a wealth of personal information. Since Chase Paymentech is the payment processing and merchant services arm of JPMorgan Chase, it means that unlike most phishing attacks, this one targets businesses.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Chase-Bank-Phishing-Campaign-in-Circulation-171184.shtml>

17. *December 7, Daytona Beach News-Journal* – (Florida) **Police: Career robber picks Daytona Beach bank.** A career bank robber with a sudden penchant for Daytona Beach, Florida, tried to rob the Wachovia Bank on West International Speedway Boulevard December 7, police said. The suspect, who was released from federal prison in Marion County 11 days ago, arrived in the city December 3. The robbery suspect entered the Wachovia across the street from Mainland High School, and told a bank official he had a bomb in his briefcase, police said. The robber presented the bank employee with a three-page letter. While he was talking to the employee though, a teller on break in another room, overheard the entire conversation and called 9-1-1. When police arrived at the bank just before 11 a.m., they met the suspect as he was walking out the front door with a satchel filled with money in hand.

Source: <http://www.news-journalonline.com/breakingnews/2010/12/career-robber-picks-daytona-beach-bank.html>

Transportation Sector

18. *December 9, UPI* – (National) **Plane diverted because of unruly passenger.** A Continental Airlines flight from Houston, Texas, to San Jose, California, was diverted to Albuquerque, New Mexico, when a passenger became disruptive, officials said. The passenger was removed from Flight 1576, CNN reported December 8. He was held for questioning at the Albuquerque airport. An FBI spokesman said the man had not been charged December 8. The plane landed in Albuquerque at 9:30 a.m., an airport spokesman said. It took off for Houston an hour later.
Source: http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2010/12/09/Plane-diverted-because-of-unruly-passenger/UPI-34681291875641/
19. *December 9, Associated Press* – (New Hampshire; Maine) **Officials says NH-Maine bridge may need to close.** A New Hampshire transportation official said the Memorial Bridge between Portsmouth and Kittery, Maine, may need to be closed to traffic permanently. A spokesman of the New Hampshire Transportation Department said the results of a bridge inspection the week of November 28 are “not looking good.” He said the full results of the should be available soon. The spokesman told the Portsmouth Herald the state will not spend the money to do temporary repairs on the bridge. The states of Maine and New Hampshire have agreed to replace the Memorial Bridge. Demolition begins in 18 months. A replacement bridge will not be ready for traffic for at least 3 years.
Source: http://www.boston.com/news/local/new_hampshire/articles/2010/12/09/officials_says_nh_maine_bridge_may_need_to_close/
20. *December 8, KEZI 9 Eugene* – (Oregon) **NTSB: Carson to blame for deadly crash.** The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) ruled a southern Oregon helicopter company withheld information, and was responsible for the crash that killed nine people back in 2008. Grayback Forestry lost seven of its firefighters in the Iron-44 helicopter crash. The NTSB says Carson Helicopters did not reveal the correct weight limit for the helicopter, and it was more than 1,000 pounds overweight when it went down. Carson Helicopters denies any wrongdoing in the crash. It says the chopper went down because of a loss of engine power.
Source: <http://kezi.com/news/local/197297>
21. *December 8, KRIS TV 6 Corpus Christi* – (Massachusetts) **Air traffic controller helps avert disaster.** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is investigating after a plane took a wrong turn and almost cut in front of another plane that was taking off at Logan International Airport in Boston, Massachusetts. But a quick-thinking air traffic controller helped prevent a collision. The close call came November 24, the night before Thanksgiving, when the holiday rush was on and Logan was busy. The information was not released until recently. Flight 1264 had just landed safely with 91 passengers on board after a 3-hour flight from Austin, Texas. But then the plane took a wrong turn, and headed onto an inactive runway, where it had just landed and where JetBlue Flight 445 was taking off. While talking to another pilot, the air traffic

controller noticed something was wrong. Seconds counted, and he reacted quickly. The pilot stopped with about 200 feet left to spare. JetBlue admitted the pilot of Flight 1264 made a mistake. They released the following statement: “At no time did the flight enter an active runway without clearance from ATC...The processes put in place by the airline, the pilots and ATC are designed to prevent and mitigate inadvertent errors. The system worked.” The air traffic controller is up for an award for his actions.

Source: <http://www.kristv.com/news/air-traffic-controller-helps-avert-disaster/>

22. *December 8, Associated Press* – (National) **NTSB: Government aircraft are safety ‘orphans’**. Government planes and helicopters are used every day to help protect public safety, as well as countless other tasks. But who is looking after the safety of the flight crews, government employees, and other passengers on those aircraft? No one, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) said the week of December 6. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said it does not have the authority to regulate the safety of aircraft operated by other federal agencies or state and local governments. And those government agencies, with the exception of the military, generally do not have the aviation expertise to do it themselves. That makes these aircraft — some government-owned, others leased — safety “orphans,” the NTSB Chairman said. Someone, she said, needs to accept this duty. The issue came to the fore December 7 when the safety board determined after a 2-year investigation that a company that provided a helicopter to the U.S. Forest Service for firefighting was responsible for a crash that killed nine people, including seven firefighters, and injured four others in a mountaintop clearing near Weaverville, California. The FAA said it’s “working on policy clarification” for inspectors who oversee companies that lease aircraft for government and private use. The General Services Administration (GSA), which makes recommendations to federal agencies on air fleet management, said the FAA is responsible for the oversight of aircraft used solely to carry passengers. But the FAA does not regulate aircraft engaged in government activities such as firefighting, border patrol, surveying, or chasing down crooks.

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9JVSDVO0.htm>

For more stories, see items [0](#), [52](#), and [54](#)

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Postal and Shipping Sector

23. *December 9, New Hampshire Union Leader* – (New Hampshire) **Mailbox destroyed in soda bottle explosion**. Three teens turned themselves into police in connection with a soda bottle bomb that destroyed a mailbox in the Daisy Hill area of Lebanon, New Hampshire. Police said the mail box exploded into pieces, with some landing more than 20 feet from the post. Pieces of the mailbox had a strange brownish liquid on them and the bottle had a chemical smell. The mailbox was blown up December 5 by what police describe as a “works” bomb, a chemical reaction bomb made from common chemicals and powerful enough to deliver second or third degree chemical burns, serious injuries or death. Possessing one of these devices is a class B felony and if someone is injured

by one of them, the individual responsible could face a class A felony charge.

Source:

<http://www.unionleader.com/article.aspx?headline=Mailbox+destroyed+in+soda+bottle+explosion&articleId=db153fd2-7879-4839-841d-785acf8281a9>

24. *December 7, Cypress Times* – (National) **German man arrested on federal charges for smuggling tarantulas into the U.S.** A German national targeted in a multi-agency investigation known as “Operation Spiderman” has been arrested on federal smuggling charges after he allegedly used the U.S. mail to illegally import hundreds of tarantulas, some of which are protected under international law. The suspect was arrested without incident December 9 by special agents with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Postal Inspectors. He was taken into custody soon after arriving in Los Angeles to meet with an associate. The man is charged in a criminal complaint with one count of illegally importing wildlife into the United States, an offense that carries a statutory maximum penalty of 20 years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine. The investigation began in March, when a routine search of an international package revealed about 300 live tarantulas that were being shipped to Los Angeles. As part of the investigation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife agents obtained information about an additional shipment of live tarantulas from Germany via the United States Postal Service. Agents intercepted a second package that contained nearly 250 live tarantulas wrapped in colored plastic straws. The second package contained 22 Mexican red-kneed (*Brachypelma smithi*) tarantulas, a species that is protected under an international treaty.

Source:

http://www.thecypresstimes.com/article/News/National_News/GERMAN_MAN_ARRESTED_ON_FEDERAL_CHARGES_FOR_SMUGGLING_TARANTULAS_INTO_THE_US/37157

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Agriculture and Food Sector

25. *December 9, Lynn Daily Item* – (Massachusetts) **Electrical fire causes evacuation at Stop & Shop.** An electrical fire broke out December 8 in a frozen food container at Super Stop & Shop on Main Street in Saugus, Massachusetts, resulting in the evacuation of the store. The Saugus fire captain said a store employee called around 4 p.m., saying an 18-20 foot container located in the rear of the 164 Main St., store had a wire in it that was shooting out flames. “Turns out there was an electrical short in the defrosting machine, and as a precautionary method, employees moved everyone out of the store,” he said. Customers and employees were forced to brave the bitterly cold weather outside for nearly an hour. “The clerks had pulled all of the food out of the bin, took the covers off, and threw baking powder on the wire before calling the fire department. A lot of people try to take care of the situation first, but then it gets worse, so it’s really best to always call us first.” The incident did not reach a working fire status and the frozen food bin is currently out of commission.

Source: <http://www.thedailyitemoflynn.com/articles/2010/12/09/news/news14.txt>

26. *December 8, United States Department of Agriculture* – (California) **California firm recalls raw and ready-to-eat pork products.** L&R Fine Fashions, Inc., a Garden Grove, California, establishment, is recalling approximately 2,182 pounds of raw pork paste and ready-to-eat fried pork loaf products because they contain an undeclared allergen, wheat, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced December 8. Wheat is a known allergen, which is not declared on the label. The products subject to recall include: 11-ounce packages of “Kim Loan Gio Song Pork Paste Fish Sauce Added” and 14-ounce chubs of “Kim Loan Cha Chien Fried Pork Loaf Fish Sauce Added.” Each product bears the establishment number “Est. 40074” inside the USDA mark of inspection. The products subject to recall were produced between January 22, 2010 and December 6, 2010. These products were distributed to retail establishments in Southern California.

Source:

http://imperialvalleynews.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8817&Itemid=1

27. *December 8, Reuters* – (Florida) **Pathogen continues to threaten Florida’s \$9-B citrus industry.** An insect-borne bacterial disease ravaging Florida’s citrus crop means the juice squeezed from the Sunshine State’s fruit may soon come from trees that have had their genetic makeup modified. The blight, commonly known as “greening,” is the world’s most destructive citrus disease. GMO juice would likely be reviled by biotech industry critics. But a scientist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and other experts said there may be no other choice in the battle against greening. “It’s the most serious disease threat that the Florida citrus industry has ever faced,” he said. Most scientists who have studied the problem seem to agree genetic modification, and the cultivation of trees resistant to the bacteria that causes “greening” disease, currently hold out the only real long-term hope of fighting it. That was the conclusion of a report sponsored by the Florida Department of Citrus and US National Academy of Sciences in March, which highlighted the need for urgency to save Florida’s \$9-billion citrus industry.

Source: <http://www.bworldonline.com/main/content.php?id=22579>

For another story, see item [35](#)

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Water Sector

28. *December 9, Seacoastonline* – (New Hampshire) **Exeter in violation of drinking water standards.** The town of Exeter, New Hampshire is in violation of federal drinking water standards because it contains a high level of disinfection byproducts. An alert was issued by the town December 3, informing residents the water contained a high amount of trihalomethanes. Trihalomethanes are a group of organic chemicals that often occur in drinking water as a result of chlorine treatment for disinfectant purposes. The water treatment operations supervisor for the Exeter Water Department said the town disinfects the water with chlorine. He believes materials washed into the supply

during the summer months when there was a long period of dry weather followed by a period of heavy rain. The federal maximum levels for trihalomethanes is 80 parts per billion (ppb) and the town drinking water contained 84 ppb and 87 ppb during the third and fourth quarters of 2010, respectively.

Source: <http://www.seacoastonline.com/articles/20101207-NEWS-12070327>

29. *December 8, Associated Press* – (Indiana) **Former Gary wastewater treatment operator charged.** The former operator of the Gary wastewater treatment plant in Gary, Indiana, and two of its employees have been charged with conspiracy and felony violations of the Clean Water Act in a 26-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury. A U.S. Justice Department statement December 9 said United Water Services Inc. of Harrington Park, New Jersey, and two employees conspired to tamper with E. coli monitoring methods by turning up disinfectant levels before taking water samples. The indictment said the disinfectant levels were lowered after the samples were taken, reducing the amount of treatment chemicals used.

Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-12-08/former-gary-wastewater-treatment-operator-charged.html>

30. *December 8, WDTN 2 Dayton* – (Ohio) **Contaminated water found in Clark co.** Clark County, Ohio residents learned the drinking water in Donnelsville is contaminated. The Ohio and U.S. Environmental Protection Agencies tested private wells in the village of Donnelsville. Results showed at least 23 are contaminated with PCE, which is a potentially cancer causing chemical used in dry cleaning and degreasing. Of those 23 wells, nine had PCE levels above the maximum allowed for drinking water. The Clark County Health commissioner said, “What else needs to happen is there needs to be further testing in that area to define the nature and extent of the contamination and try to figure out exactly where it’s coming from.” People whose wells tested positive for PCE should not drink the water or use it for cooking. Village officials will meet again December 20 to come up with a plan on how to protect the public from the contamination.

Source: <http://www.wdtn.com/dpp/news/wdtn-contaminated-water-found-in-clark-co.>

31. *December 8, New York Times* – (New York) **Businesses charged with dumping sewage in Brooklyn Creek.** Four people and four businesses at a Brooklyn, New York, shopping center face criminal charges over the dumping of raw sewage and restaurant grease into Shell Bank Creek in Sheepshead Bay. The Kings County district attorney and state and city environmental officials said December 8 that complaints from residents about sewage and grease in the creek led investigators to a nearby shopping center where businesses maintain their own septic pipes, which connect to a city sewage treatment center and run along the creek’s bank. One business, a Regal Cinemas multiplex movie theater, had been served notices from the city’s Department of Environmental Protection beginning in 2003 that its sewer lines leaked and needed repairs, officials said. Officials said investigators used green dye to trace discharges and found that, despite the notices, fecal matter and toilet paper from the movie theater’s septic system showed up in the creek as recently as this year. A lawyer for the Regal Entertainment Group dismissed the charges. The other businesses charged in the

use of damaged sewage pipes are the Tae Young Deli Corporation, known as Knapp Street Bagel; T.G.I. Friday's; and the 49 Holding Corporation, known as Deauville Marina.

Source: <http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/12/08/8-charged-in-sewage-dumping-in-brooklyn-creek/>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

32. *December 9, Arizona Republic* – (Arizona) **Arizona experiences worst outbreak of West Nile in U.S.** A new report shows Arizona experienced the nation's worst outbreak of West Nile virus during this year's season, accounting for nearly one in five severe cases. A total of 159 confirmed cases were reported in Arizona through November 30, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta. At least a dozen Arizonans died. State officials updated the count December 2, reporting 163 cases. Arizona had nearly 20 percent of the nation's neuroinvasive-disease cases. The disease attacks the nervous system and can lead to life-threatening West Nile encephalitis and West Nile meningitis. The spike in Arizona was so severe CDC officials visited in September to study the outbreak. It was mainly concentrated in Gilbert, Chandler, and Tempe, as well as in Pinal County. The CDC is still analyzing the data. Scientists were surprised to see Arizona's urban desert region lead the nation in cases, considering West Nile was thought to be more prevalent in mosquito-rich environments, the manager for the Arizona Department of Health Services' vector-borne disease program said.

Source:

<http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/local/articles/2010/12/09/20101209arizona-west-nile-virus-cases.html#ixzz17cKlSiW1>

33. *December 8, WPXI 11 Pittsburgh* – (Pennsylvania) **Hazmat crews called to closed Monsour Medical Center.** Hazardous materials crews were called to the closed Monsour Medical Center in Jeannette, Pennsylvania, December 8, because of medical waste found inside the building. Haz-mat crews searched the building and found old needles and bags of medical waste throughout. The mayor of Jeannette requested crews visit the building to remove anything that may pose a threat to public safety. The mayor said the building went into foreclosure so the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) had to get a search warrant to enter the building. The medical center has been closed for more than 4 years, but police said over the past year, the facility has been broke into many times. "Public health is of the utmost concern. We advise people to stay away from the facility. Our priority right now is securing it so no one else can gain access as they previously had and working toward the next step of initiating a cleanup of all of the material and getting it out of there," a DEP spokesperson said.
- Source: <http://www.wpxi.com/news/26068774/detail.html>

34. *December 7, Chicago Tribune* – (Illinois; Ohio; Pennsylvania) **Abbott, two other firms settle health care fraud claims.** Abbott Laboratories and two other

pharmaceutical firms agreed to pay more than \$421 million to settle claims of defrauding Medicare and Medicaid in the latest in a string of nine- and ten-figure health care fraud settlements announced by the U.S. Justice Department (DOJ). The drug companies charged one set of prices to doctors and pharmacies but reported another set of inflated figures used as benchmarks by government insurers reimbursing health care providers. The difference amounted to kickbacks to the companies' customers, said the assistant attorney general for the DOJ's civil division, who announced the settlements December 7. Since January 2009, healthcare settlements have accounted for more than \$5 billion out of \$9 billion recovered in fraud cases of all kinds brought by federal prosecutors, he said. In the December 7 settlements, Roxane Laboratories, of Columbus, Ohio, also known as Boehringer Ingelheim Roxane Inc., will pay \$280 million for allegedly reporting false prices on generic drugs including painkillers, a diuretic, and an immunosuppressant. B. Braun Medical Inc., of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, agreed to pay \$14.7 million for alleged overcharging for 49 drug products. Abbott, of North Chicago, Illinois, agreed to pay \$126.5 million to settle accusations it charged the government inflated prices for products ranging from sterile water and saline solution to vancomycin, an antibiotic.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/wire/sc-dc-1208-drug-promotions-20101207,0,1770487.story>

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Government Facilities Sector

35. *December 9, KSTP 5 St. Paul and Associated Press* – (Minnesota) **Randolph students return to class with late start after ammonia leak Wed.** Officials have given the all-clear for residents to return home after an ammonia spill forced an evacuation in Randolph, Minnesota, and sent more than 50 students to hospitals. Students returned to class December 9 with a 2-hour late start. Authorities said an ammonia cloud about the size of a football field formed after an accidental release December 8. Emergency officials said over 50 people were sent to hospitals following the leak at the River Country Co-op facility that sells fertilizer in crop inputs. Emergency officials evacuated the small city and a school following the leak around 8 a.m., when an anhydrous ammonia line ruptured as the ammonia was being transferred from a semi to a storage tank. A mass notification system was used to send an evacuation message to Randolph residents and others within 1 mile of the town. More than 600 students at the city's school complex were evacuated to St. Mark's church outside the city limits. The superintendent said the school initially went into a lock down when they were notified of the leak. After about 5 minutes, they were asked to evacuate. During the course of the evacuation students were possibly exposed to the ammonia.

Source: <http://kstp.com/article/stories/s1872333.shtml>

36. *December 8, Livingston Daily Press* – (Michigan) **Homemade explosive brings bomb squad to downtown Howell.** The Howell Police Department in Michigan dispatched officers to the area near the Howell Carnegie District Library at 314 W. Grand River Ave. on a report of a possible bomb in a parked vehicle at 8:15 p.m. December 7. Two

Howell females contacted officers and drew their attention to a 1995 Nissan Maxima in the parking area on Chestnut Street to the west of the library, police said. One of the females said her estranged boyfriend, who is in jail on unrelated charges, had been putting together homemade explosive devices at their house in the 600 block of McCarthy Street. After the couple split up, she told police, she had packaged up those materials and put them in the car so she could take them to the police station and get them out of her house. The ex-girlfriend and the other female decided on the way to the station that it would be better to park the car and call police to pick up the materials. Howell police blocked off roadways around the library and contacted the bomb squad, which arrived at the scene at 9 p.m. The squad determined a homemade explosive device was among the items in the package and detonated the device at the scene without any injuries or property damage, police said. A state police robot could be seen taking what appeared to be a backpack away from the vehicle.

Source:

<http://www.livingstondaily.com/article/20101208/NEWS01/101208003/Homemade-explosive-brings-bomb-squad-to-downtown-Howell-with-additional-scene-photos->

37. *December 8, WIS 10 Columbia* – (South Carolina) **Student causes chemical spill at USC science building.** Columbia firefighters were on the scene of a chemical spill December 8 at the University of South Carolina's Graduate Science Research Center on Sumter Street. The fire chief said a student in one of the labs knocked over and broke a container of a chemical called Tetrahydrofuran that was being using for an experiment. Tetrahydrofuran can be flammable and cause respiratory problems, and is known to evaporate quickly once exposed to air. There were about three people inside the fifth-floor laboratory when the spill occurred, and about 15 to 20 people were evacuated from the building. A hazardous materials team entered the building to ventilate the facility. There were no reports of damage to the building.

Source: <http://www.wistv.com/Global/story.asp?S=13642360>

38. *December 8, Hackensack Record* – (New Jersey) **Boy, 12, arrested in bomb threat at Hackensack private school.** A 12-year-old boy was taken into custody December 8 after falsely stating there was a bomb in his Hudson Street school in Hackensack, New Jersey, authorities said. "It was all a hoax," said the acting officer in charge of the police department. The boy, a student at the George Washington School who lives in Paterson, told a school counselor there was a bomb in the school and that he had seen someone in the building carrying a weapon, the officer said. The call came in at 9:51 a.m., and the school was immediately placed on lockdown. The 75 students at the school and approximately 25 staff members were evacuated and taken to the nearby Jackson Avenue School. The Jackson Avenue School, a district school, was also placed on lockdown because of the boy's claim he had seen someone with a weapon. In addition to the Hackensack police and fire departments, the Bergen County Police Bomb Squad responded to the scene and used its canine unit to search the building.

Source:

http://www.northjersey.com/news/crime_courts/120810_Private_school_in_Hackensack_evacuated_after_bomb_threat.html

39. *December 8, WCSC 5 Charleston* – (South Carolina) **Fire-related incident involving student puts schools on lockdown.** A fire-related incident involving a student on the campus of Academic Magnet High School and the School of the Arts in North Charleston, South Carolina, put the schools on lockdown December 8. According to a Charleston County School District spokesman, the incident was isolated and that one student was injured. The injured student was transported to a hospital and the student's family was notified. Officials placed the campus on administrative lockdown while police investigated. School officials said students were safe and in classrooms with teachers, and that the school expects to resume a normal schedule when police complete their investigation. Counselors were site to assist students and school was expected to dismiss as normal, the spokesman said. The North Charleston Police Department is the lead agency investigating the incident.
Source: <http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/13637207/academic-magnet-high-school>

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Emergency Services Sector

40. *December 9, Reno Gazette-Journal* – (Nevada) **Douglas, Lyon, Carson City, Alpine County see losses of telephone, 911 service.** Telephone service, including the 911 emergency line, was disrupted across Douglas County and parts of Lyon County, Nevada, December 8 after a construction crew mistakenly severed a fiber-optic line. The accident occurred shortly after 11 a.m. when workers in the Johnson Lane area of northern Douglas County damaged the fiber-optic line with a backhoe while working on a water line, said a sergeant with the Douglas County Sheriff's Office. The outage, which also affected portions of Carson City and California's Alpine County, sporadically affected land telephone lines, cellular and Internet service across the region, he said. The most serious impact was the shutdown of the emergency line countywide. Internet connection, landline telephone, and cell phone — including 911 — connectivity was restored to all of Douglas County by the night of December 8. During the outage, residents were urged through radio broadcasts to contact authorities in Carson City or South Lake Tahoe, who still could reach Douglas County officials by telephone, in the event of any emergency. They also were instructed to report to fire stations, if needed. The Douglas County Sheriff's Office also conducted extra "roving" patrols.
Source: <http://www.rgj.com/article/20101209/NEWS07/12090333/1321/news>
41. *December 9, Associated Press* – (South Carolina) **Police: 1 killed in wreck with SC fire truck.** The South Carolina Highway Patrol said a pedestrian was killed after being hit by a fire truck in Columbia. A Columbia Fire Department truck hit two pedestrians at around 11:30 p.m. December 8 near Providence Hospital. Authorities said one of the pedestrians was killed. The other was taken to a hospital, and the extent of that person's injuries was not immediately clear. The fire chief said the unit was responding to a hazardous materials call, and that the truck's lights and sirens were on.
Source: <http://www.wsoc.tv.com/news/26076211/detail.html>

For another story, see item [22](#)

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Information Technology Sector

42. *December 9, Help Net Security* – (International) **Fake Facebook toolbar leads to malware.** A new e-mail campaign initiated by spammers tries to take advantage of Facebook changes and lure users into downloading malware. This latest spam run offers a “Facebook toolbar”. If the e-mail looks familiar, it is because it is identical to one used in a spam campaign more than half a year ago, when the offered file presented a veritable jumble of incongruous information. This time, the “Download Here” button takes the victim to a Web site where an automatic download of a file called fb.exe is started. According to Trend Micro researchers, it contains several component files, among which is a backdoor Trojan that installs an IRC client on the infected machine. Source: http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=1562
43. *December 9, IDG News* – (International) **Fake receipt program targets Amazon retailers.** Amazon retailers are being targeted by fraudsters who have created a custom-built program that generates fake receipts for nonexistent orders, according to researchers from GFI Software. The program is designed to create a customized HTML file that closely resembles an actual Amazon.com receipt, wrote the senior threat researcher. A fraudster can fill out the date, item, price, order number, and address among other information. Users also have the option of selecting specific Amazon portals, including “.com,” “.co.uk,” “.fr,” and “.ca.” When the “generate” button is clicked, a file is placed in the computer’s program folder which is nearly identical to the “printable order summary” on a legitimate receipt. The scam relies entirely on social engineering, with the fraudster hoping a vendor will be tricked into thinking a product was sold. Source: http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9200601/Fake_receipt_program_targets_Ama_zon_retailers
44. *December 9, Softpedia* – (International) **Firefox and Opera drop WebSocket support over security issues.** Mozilla and Opera developers plan to disable WebSocket support in Firefox 4 and Opera 11 because the protocol has been proven vulnerable to attacks. The security issue was discovered by researchers and was documented in a paper released at the end of November. The attacks are the result of transparent proxies not properly understanding the semantics of the Upgrade-based WebSocket handshakes and treating the final bytes as valid HTTP requests. “This is a serious threat to the Internet and Websocket and not a browser specific issue. The protocol vulnerabilities also affect Java and Flash solutions,” wrote a Mozilla Developer Evangelist on the Mozilla Hacks blog. “In a web environment that could for example mean that a widely used JavaScript file – like Google analytics – could be replaced on a cache you go through with a malware file,” he explained.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Firefox-and-Opera-Drop-WebSocket-Support-over-Security-Issues-171598.shtml>

45. *December 9, PRWeek* – (International) **Twitter and Facebook shut down hackers.** Facebook and Twitter were the latest organizations to find themselves in the middle of the WikiLeaks saga. Hackers used the two social media outlets December 8 to organize attacks on companies that severed relationships with WikiLeaks. MasterCard, Visa, and PayPal sites were all attacked. Facebook was the first to respond by banning one of the pages of “Operation Payback.” Twitter later disabled the Operation Payback account. The dilemma highlights the push and pull between free speech and business interests as the two social media companies look to implement advertising business models. Facebook issued a statement that said it will “take action on content that we find or that’s reported to us that promotes unlawful activity.” A Twitter spokesman said it does not comment on specific actions related to user accounts.
Source: <http://www.prweekus.com/twitter-and-facebook-shut-down-hackers/article/192484/>
46. *December 8, Computerworld* – (International) **Feds charge two EMC employees with stealing more than \$1M in equipment.** Federal prosecutors charged two men December 8 with stealing more than \$1 million in high-tech equipment from EMC facilities in Massachusetts and North Carolina and trying to sell it over the Internet. Prosecutors charged one individual, 33, from North Carolina, and another, 47, from Brockton, Massachusetts, as well as a Hanover, Massachusetts, company called BL Trading LLC with wire fraud and with selling, receiving, or transporting stolen property in interstate commerce. The individual from North Carolina was also charged with aggravated identity theft. BL Trading is a 23-year-old computer equipment reseller that, in addition to working with other vendors, distributes EMC storage hardware and software products. Its Web site states it has “the largest inventory of pre-owned [EMC] Clariion parts in the Northeast.” Clariion is EMC’s midrange line of data storage systems. BL Trading also resells products for Dell, Hewlett-Packard, IBM, Brocade Communications Systems, QLogic, and Emulex.
Source:
http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9200539/Feds_charge_two EMC_employees_with_stealing_more_than_1M_in_equipment
47. *December 8, Softpedia* – (International) **Instant messaging worm can speak many languages.** Security researchers from Symantec warn a new worm spreading via instant messaging applications is capable of targeting users in 20 different languages. The code of the worm, which is detected as W32.Yimfoca.B, contains a routine that checks for the location of the user and sends spam in the appropriate language. If the location scan result is not on a hardcoded list of 44 countries, the malware falls back to English messages, which can read “seen this? [link]” or “this is the funniest photo ever! [link].” In addition to spreading by spam through Google Talk, ICQ, MSN Messenger, Paltalk, Skype, Xfire, or Yahoo! Messenger, the worm also infects removable USB drives inserted into the computer. The malware installs itself under Application Data as a file

named jutched.exe, a slight name variation from jusched.exe, the legit Java update scheduler component. The worm is used as a distribution platform for other malware, possibly as part of a pay-per-install scheme, so users who fall victim to the IM social engineering attacks, will likely have multiple malware infections.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Instant-Messaging-Worm-Can-Speak-Many-Languages-171452.shtml>

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at sos@us-cert.gov or visit their Web site: <http://www.us-cert.gov>

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Web site: <https://www.it-isac.org>

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Communications Sector

48. *December 8, WEWS 5 Cleveland* – (Ohio) **Power hit takes WEWS NewsChannel5 off the air.** A power outage at the WEWS NewsChannel5 studios in Cleveland, Ohio, knocked the station off the air December 8. The power hit happened at about 5:02 p.m. The station's engineers worked to get everything back online by about 5:07p.m. It is not clear yet whether weather caused the outage, but the issue appears to be isolated to the WEWS studios at East 30th Street and Euclid Avenue. The signal and power were restored about 15 minutes later.

Source: http://www.newsnet5.com/dpp/news/local_news/power-hit-takes-wews-newschannel5-off-the-air

49. *December 8, Softpedia* – (International) **Vulnerable shared hosting platforms responsible for most BHSEO compromised Websites.** An analysis of compromised Web sites used in black hat SEO campaigns, performed by cloud security vendor Zscaler, suggested weaknesses in share hosting platforms are the most common attack vector. The Zscaler researchers inspected about 1,100 Web sites hijacked by spammers and used to redirect visitors to scareware Web sites. Such compromises usually result in rogue PHP pages with content related to hot search topics, being uploaded on the Web servers. These pages get indexed by search engine crawlers and appear in search results, however, when users try to visit them, they get redirected to malicious sites pushing fake antivirus software. When looking at the compromised Web sites, the researchers were surprised to find that only 15 percent of them were built using popular open source content management solutions like WordPress, Joomla!, or osCommerce. In fact, many were static Web sites created with plain HTML, JavaScript, and images. Under these circumstances, the possibility of them being hacked via SQL injection or other vulnerabilities that require server-side scripting is out of the question. Other possible methods are compromised FTP credentials, lifted from computers infected with malware, or weaknesses on shared hosting servers, that allow, for example, neighborhood spying. "The second possibility is the most likely. There have been

mass-infections reported in the past for GoDaddy, BlueHost, Dreamhost, etc.,” a senior security researcher at Zscaler wrote.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Vulnerable-Shared-Hosting-Platforms-Responsible-for-Most-BHSEO-Compromised-Websites-171413.shtml>

For another story, see item [40](#)

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Commercial Facilities Sector

50. *December 9, KETV 7 Omaha* – (Nebraska) **100 evacuated from massive Neb. apartment fire.** Fire crews battled a massive apartment fire in La Vista, Nebraska, December 7. As many as 100 people were evacuated from the Alpine Village Apartments. No injuries were reported in the fire just southwest of 84th and Harrison Streets. The fire was reported around 9:30 p.m. Flames were reported shooting from the roof of two buildings. Firefighters from La Vista, Ralston, and Papillion were called in to battle the blaze. Investigators said 24 apartment units were destroyed in the fire. They said 21 of the units were occupied. Power was shut off to the complex for a short time. Investigators have not determined a cause for the fire.
Source: <http://www.firehouse.com/topic/fire-prevention-and-investigation/100-evacuated-massive-neb-apartment-fire>
51. *December 8, Santa Rosa Press Democrat* – (California) **Four hurt in Camp Meeker explosion.** Four men were burned when a septic system they were working on exploded December 8 at the Alliance Redwoods Conference Grounds in Camp Meeker, California. One of the victims with second-degree burns was wheeled away in a gurney to an ambulance. Two of the injured were taken to Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital and two were taken to Palm Drive Hospital in Sebastopol, workers at the scene and rescue workers said. Workers were draining septic tanks and then filling them with gravel when the explosion happened near the retreat center, which includes a reception office, dining hall, and gift shop. The jackhammer apparently ignited a spark inside the septic tank, setting off a methane explosion. The Monte Rio fire chief said all four men had burns on their faces, arms, and chests. No structures were burned because the explosion occurred underground.
Source:
<http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20101208/ARTICLES/101209491/1349?Title=Four-hurt-in-Camp-Meeker-explosion>
52. *December 8, Honolulu Star Advertiser* – (Hawaii) **Discovery of 81 mm mortar round closes streets in Makiki.** A passerby discovered an unexploded World War II mortar round in a plastic bag in a trash can at Cartwright Field in Makiki, Hawaii, December 7, causing police to close off streets in the area for about an hour. The Honolulu Police Department’s bomb squad was dispatched to the city park after a man reported finding the potential explosive device at 8:50 a.m. Police closed Lunalilo Street between Keeaumoku and Kewalo streets, Keeaumoku Street from Beretania Street to Wilder

Avenue, and Kinau Street from Keeaumoku Street to Makiki Street until the device was removed. The 81 mm mortar round was taken to Schofield Barracks for disposal by Army ordnance experts and the roads re-opened at 10 a.m., police said. The device was destroyed by soldiers from the 706th Explosive Ordnance Detachment assigned to the 45th Sustainment Brigade.

Source: <http://www.staradvertiser.com/news/breaking/111546784.html>

53. *December 8, Sandusky Register* – (Ohio) **Moviegoers evacuated from smoky cinema.** Up to 30 moviegoers at the new theater in Perkins Township, Ohio, were evacuated December 8 after welders caught a roll of carpet on fire. At about 5 p.m., two welders were working on a handrail leading up to a projection room in the new Cinemark Stadium theater. The workers inadvertently caught a roll of carpet on fire, a Perkins fire captain said. A theater employee grabbed a fire extinguisher and put out the flames before Perkins firefighters arrived at the scene. People still had to be evacuated from the theater because of smoke, he said. The theater escaped damage — only the roll of carpet was seared.

Source: <http://www.sanduskyregister.com/perkins-twp/2010/dec/08/moviegoers-evacuated-smoky-cinema>

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

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Dams Sector

54. *December 9, Associated Press* – (International) **Panama Canal closed for 1st time in 21 years.** Flooding forced the closure of the Panama Canal December 8 for the first time in 21 years, and heavy rains were being blamed for at least eight deaths. More than 1,000 people in Panama were evacuated because of what authorities called historic flooding caused by record rainfall. The president said it was the first time the canal was closed because of weather since it opened in 1914. The last time the canal closed was December 20 1989, when U.S. troops invaded the country to topple its president. The country's civil protection system put eastern Panama on high alert and issued evacuation orders for about 1,500 people in dozens of flooded neighborhoods. About 50 people in two communities were ordered to leave their homes and residents near the Chagres river were told to be on alert. The canal was closed after water overflowed the banks of lakes Gatun and Alajuela, which supply the canal. Authorities said they have opened the floodgates for both lakes. About 5 percent of the world's naval commerce moves through the canal, and the U.S. is its main user.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/world/2010/12/09/panama-canal-closed-st-time-years/?test=latestnews>

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